

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/053,344

Applicant(s)

SHENOY ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Brij B Shrivastav

2859

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to August 5, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,4-8,10-25,27,29-33 and 35-102.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

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|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

Art Unit: 2859

1. Applicants' amendment dated August 5, 2004 has been received and entered.

Applicant has amended claims 4, 8, 10, 16, 29, 33, 35 and 41, and has cancelled claims 1, 3, 9, 26, 28 and 34. The pending claims in the application are 2, 4-8, 10-25, 27, 29-33 and 35-102, which are in allowable condition.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 2, 4-7, 15 and 18-25 are allowed as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest an NMR imaging process, wherein an operator making a subjective determination of whether the visual image is of good quality or bad quality, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

Claims 8, 49, 52, 55-62 are allowed as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest an NMR imaging process, wherein an operator making a subjective determination of whether the visual image is of good quality or bad quality, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

Claims 10-14, 50, 53 and 63-70 are allowed as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest an NMR imaging process, wherein an operator making a subjective determination of whether the visual image is of good quality or bad quality, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

Claims 27, 29-32, 40, 43-48 are allowed as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest an NMR imaging process, wherein an operator making a subjective determination of whether the visual image is of good quality or bad quality, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

Claims 33, 79, 82, 85-89 and 100 are allowed as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest an NMR imaging process, wherein an operator making a subjective determination of whether the visual image is of good quality or bad quality, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

Claims 35-39, 80, 83, 90-94 and 101 are allowed as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest an NMR imaging process, wherein an operator making a subjective determination of whether the visual image is of good quality or bad quality, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

Claims 41, 42, 81, 84, 95-99 and 102 are allowed, as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest an NMR imaging process, wherein further process steps, after providing the diagnostic information, moving the imaging object and applying an RF pulse corresponding to the same angular precession frequency, is applied to select a different slice of the imaging object, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

Claims 16, 17, 51, 54 and 71-78 are allowed, as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest an NMR imaging process, wherein further process steps, after providing the diagnostic information, moving the imaging object and applying an RF pulse corresponding to the same angular precession frequency, is applied to select a different slice of the imaging object, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

Art Unit: 2859

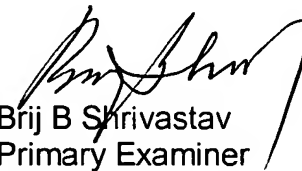
accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brij B Shrivastav whose telephone number is 571-272-2250. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 AM to 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. F. Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

September 9, 2004

  
Brij B Shrivastav  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2859

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